

**MINUTES**

**OF THE**

**NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION**

**TELEPHONE MEETING**

**APRIL 15, 2004**

**DES MOINES, IOWA**

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## MEETING MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

The telephone meeting of the Natural Resource Commission was called to order by Chairperson Kramer at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 15, 2004 at Des Moines, Iowa.

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Joan Schneider  
Janice Marcantonio  
Carol Kramer  
William Sullivan  
Paul Christiansen  
Randy Duncan  
Richard Kim Francisco

### APPROVE AGENDA

*Motion was made by Commissioner Sullivan to approve the April 15, 2004 NRC agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Duncan. Motion carried unanimously.*

### AGENDA APPROVED

### CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Linda Hanson, Division Administrator, Management Services Division, presented the following item.

#### **Hawkeye WMA, Johnson Co.—Shooting Range, Berms and Drainage Work**

Bids were opened March 17, 2004 for the following projects:

This project consists of the excavation of a rural shooting range, installation of drainage features, berms and incidental work as required by the Plans and the DNR Construction Inspector. This project is budgeted in the Coralville Condition 5 Fund. DNR estimate is \$65,000. Thirty-six sets of plans were requested. Sixteen bids were received.

Cole Construction Co., Inc.	Keosauqua, IA	\$45,828.40	alt: \$52,478.40
DeLong-Keith Construction Inc.	Washington, IA	\$59,655.60	alt: \$67,540.60
Todd Summers Enterprise	Masonville, IA	\$57,416.20	alt: \$67,866.20
Kinman Co., Inc.	Oskaloosa, IA	\$58,690.68	alt: \$70,955.18
Weaver's Inc.	Tipton, IA	\$62,121.00	alt: \$71,383.50

J. B. Holland Construction Inc.	Decorah, IA	\$61,218.20	alt: \$77,130.70
Mark Seaton dba Seaton Const.	Deep River, IA	\$73,487.00	alt: \$82,987.00
Peterson Contractors Inc.	Reinbeck, IA	\$83,150.20	alt: \$92,460.20
Vieth Construction Corp.	Reinbeck, IA	\$86,342.00	alt: \$94,179.50
Lee Koenig dba Koenig Const.	Marengo, IA	\$83,553.48	alt: \$94,801.48
Connolly Construction Inc.	Peosta, IA	\$79,696.00	alt: \$95,846.00
TC Tiling & Excavating Inc.	Wayland, IA	\$85,252.00	alt: \$96,652.00
Bud Heckert and Sons, Inc.	Ottumwa, IA	\$89,300.00	alt: \$100,700.00
Miller Welding & Tiling, Inc.			
dba G & R Miller Construction	Washington, IA	\$146,423.00	alt: \$152,123.00
Tschiggfrie Excavating Co.	Dubuque, IA	\$160,153.40	alt: \$172,123.40
Bill Whitters Construction Inc.	Solon, IA	\$178,755.00	alt: \$188,682.50

Staff recommends award of contract with alternate to Cole Construction Co., Inc., low bidder.

Linda Hanson stated that an original construction projects item was distributed containing the wrong title for this project. She said the project is for Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area in Johnson County. The low bid with alternate was reviewed.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Sullivan to approve the low bid with alternate of Cole Construction Co., Inc. of Keosauqua, Iowa, in the amount of \$52,478.40 for excavation of a rural shooting range, installation of drainage features, berms and incidental work at Hawkeye WMA in Johnson County. Seconded by Commissioner Marcantonio. Motion carried unanimously.*

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPROVED**

### **Bear Creek WMA, Winneshiek Co.--Trout Stream Habitat**

This project consists of reshaping of existing trout stream bank, placement of bank hides, revetment slope protection, placement of cover logs and root balls into the stream bank, and incidental work as required by the Plans and the DNR Construction Inspector and as described in the Project Manual. This project is budgeted in EPA 319 funds. DNR estimate is \$73,300. Sixteen sets of plans were requested. Eight bids were opened. Two bids were rejected as incomplete. Six bids were accepted.

J. B. Holland Construction Inc.	Decorah, IA	\$56,491.00
Brown's Pump Service Inc.	Arlington, IA	\$64,600.50
Riehm Construction Co.	Waukon, IA	\$65,190.50
Weaver's Inc.	Tipton, IA	\$81,051.01
Freilinger Construction	Monona, IA	\$87,482.00
Tschiggfrie Excavating Co.	Dubuque, IA	\$113,204.55

Staff recommends award to J. B. Holland Construction Inc., low compliant bidder.

Linda Hanson reviewed the bids for the project. She noted that two of the opened bids were rejected as incomplete. The lowest compliant bid is recommended for approval.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Schneider to approve the low bid of J. B. Holland Construction Inc. of Decorah, IA, in the amount of \$56,491.00 for trout stream habitat at Bear Creek WMA, Winneshiek County. Seconded by Commissioner Francisco. Motion carried unanimously.*

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPROVED**

Commissioner Schneider noted that the Hawkeye Fly Fishermen provide valuable support for the streams in the state.

Bids were opened April 6, 2004 for the following projects:

**Springbrook State Park, Guthrie Co.--Water Storage Building**

This project consists of the construction of a water treatment/storage building including new connections into the existing distribution system and other related work as required by the Plans and the DNR Construction Inspector and as described in the specifications. This project is budgeted in the Restore the Outdoors Fund. DNR estimate is \$91,000. Twenty-one plan sets were requested. Three bids were received.

R. H. Grabau Construction Inc.	Boone, IA	\$ 86,390.00
C. L. Carroll Co., Inc.	Des Moines, IA	\$118,907.00
Lewis Contracting Co.	Red Oak, IA	\$162,065.00

Staff recommends award of contract to R. H. Grabau Construction Inc., low bidder.

Linda Hanson noted that additional or enhanced work was included in the project at Springbrook State Park, raising the department's estimate to \$91,000. Discussion continued regarding scrutinizing bidders qualifications

*Motion was made by Commissioner Christiansen to approve the low bid of R. H. Grabau Construction Inc. of Boone, Iowa, in the amount of \$86,390.00 for a water treatment/storage building, including new connections and other related work at Springbrook State Park in Guthrie County. Seconded by Commissioner Sullivan. Motion carried unanimously.*

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPROVED**

**Lewis and Clark State Park, Monona Co.--HMA Paving**

This project consists of the HMA paving of the Blue Lake, Fish Trap Road at Lewis and Clark State Park and other related work as required by the Plans and the DNR Construction Inspector. This project is budgeted in the Parks and Institutional Roads Fund. DNR estimate is \$95,000. Six sets of plans were requested. Four bids were received.

Brower Construction Co.	Sioux City, IA	\$68,005.45
Barkley Asphalt Inc.	Sioux City, IA	\$73,161.05
Western Engineering Company Inc.	Harlan, IA	\$78,495.40

Henningsen Construction Inc. Council Bluffs, IA \$84,444.25

Staff recommends award of contract to Brower Construction Co., low bidder.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Marcantonio to approve the low bid of Brower Construction Co. of Sioux City, IA, in the amount of \$68,005.45 for HMA paving of the Blue Lake, Fish Trap Road at Lewis and Clark State Park and other related work. Seconded by Commissioner Schneider. Motion carried unanimously.*

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPROVED**

### **Lake Ahquabi State Park, Warren County--Camp Pads and Campground Electrical**

This project consists of the granular surfacing of camp pads and installation of electrical hookups and related equipment and other incidental work as required by the DNR Construction Inspector and as described in the Project Manual. Project is funded in the Restore the Outdoors Fund. DNR estimate is \$156,000. Fifteen plan sets were requested. Six bids were received.

Communications Technologies Inc.	Huxley, IA	\$158,119.69
Scott Brown, dba Brown's Pump Service	Arlington, IA	\$191,665.45
Nikkel & Associates, Inc.	Ames, IA	\$218,289.83
KWS Inc.	Cedar Falls, IA	\$234,811.50
K. M. King Inc.	Burlington, IA	\$243,475.10
Stephen Darr, dba The Electric Co.	Indianola, IA	\$292,088.51

Staff recommends award of contract to Communications Technologies Inc., low bidder.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Schneider to approve the low bid of Communications Technologies Inc. of Huxley, Iowa, in the amount of \$158,119.69 for granular surfacing of camp pads and installation of electrical hookups and related equipment and other incidental work at Lake Ahquabi State Park in Warren County. Seconded by Commissioner Francisco.*

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPROVED**

### **LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

Michael Brandrup, Administrator, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

The Commission is asked to approve a two-year agreement between IDNR and Golden Hills RC&D to provide habitat improvements for threatened and endangered species in the Loess Hills. Golden Hills RC&D will contract with the Nature Conservancy to hire a burn boss and burn crew to implement prescribed fire on private property. The Loess Hills Alliance will provide the 25% match needed for LIP to Golden Hills RC&D. The IDNR portion is \$54,918 from a federal grant.

Mike Brandrup reviewed the proposed agreement to contract with the Nature Conservancy for implementation of a prescribed fire on private property.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Christiansen to approve a two-year agreement between IDNR and Golden Hills RC&D to provide habitat improvements for threatened and endangered species in the Loess Hills. Seconded by Commissioner Duncan.*

Commissioner Marcantonio asked how the Landowner Incentive Program works in the rest of Iowa.

Kelly Smith, Landowner Incentive Program Coordinator, explained that the program is a very broad statewide cost-share program for landowners. The program is used to purchase conservation easements on very rare natural areas and work with partnering organizations to provide services to landowners, with DNR providing a 25% match for the program. The match either comes from the private landowner or from private or local organizations. In this case, the Loess Hills Alliance match is through the Golden Hills RC&D.

Ms. Smith further explained that there is no set amount of money designated for the area, but rather is decided on a project by project basis with the best projects approved in the areas that we are focusing on. She added that through the Golden Hills RC&D we are being a part of a much larger project and they have money and other funds from other sources to do other habitat improvements, tree removal, seeding, etc.

Commissioner Marcantonio expressed concern about going through other agencies to funnel money to The Nature Conservancy to actually do the work. She said there will probably be administrative costs to any agency which would negate the money that is available for the actual work. She asked if the department could contract directly with The Nature Conservancy to do this.

Mike Brandrup explained that in order to meet the federal prescribed fire standards you must have the overhead—the administrative tasks and the supervisory tasks—that has had the training. The Nature Conservancy right now is the only agency that has that supervisory staff so we are utilizing them. He further explained that the department is in the process of sending 13 to 15 staff to a training session in Missouri that will begin to build internally our expertise for the future.

Kelly Smith reminded that this project is much larger than this agreement to contract for a prescribed burn. In order to get the whole thing done they needed to compile many different grants and funding sources and the only way to do that is to go through the RC&D or somebody else that was willing to do the administration for all of the funding together. She said that although there are some administrative costs through the LIP, we are paying only for work on the ground and no administrative costs.

Commissioner Marcantonio expressed concern about this being a two-year contract without knowledge of how successful it will be. She also noted that the agreement indicates that DNR is going to provide technical support for the agreement to ensure best management practices for

species of concern but that The Nature Conservancy is going to employ a land steward specialist, perhaps providing a duplication of services.

Kelly Smith replied that bills for the project will be submitted quarterly that show the work done. There will also be an update at the end of a year with a final report for the total work done on the project. These safeguards are required for reports to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Ms. Smith further explained that The Nature Conservancy land steward will be used to do the one-on-one landowner planning and site visits. They will plan all of the other habitat restoration that needs to happen. Because the land steward may not be familiar with all the different threatened and endangered species that are in that area, which is the focus of our grant, Ms. Smith said she, along with Daryl Howell and John Pearson will be reviewing the burn plans to make sure that the threatened and **endangered** species are taken into consideration when the burn plans are implemented.

Commissioner Marcantonio said she has a lot of trepidation about this grant. She asked that since both federal and state money is being used, that any landowner with threatened and endangered species within the Loess Hills be considered for this program, even if they are out of the targeted areas. She questioned how word would get out to the landowners that this program is available.

Kelly Smith emphasized that we have been working with landowners in that area for three or four years so many landowners have already had work done in the past. The land steward will be ~~the~~ coordinating all those efforts. She added that this is pilot project so are trying to concentrate our efforts for the best use of resources and limited time. **The purpose of the program is to focus on threatened and endangered species habitat improvement and therefore we must focus the limited resources on areas with known existing populations of threatened and endangered species.** She said that it is hoped that in working with these landowners this will create a better interest as far as seeing a cause and effect of fire on the landscape. Ms. Smith offered to change the wording of the agreement by saying “this contract is entered into to provide habitat improvements to all private landowners located in the Loess Hills landform.”

Commissioner Marcantonio asked that the report next year be broken down into what landowners were serviced, what areas were serviced and how many were in this landscape area, as well as how many contacts were made outside the landscape area. She said this kind of data is needed so that a decision can be made next year whether or not this is something we want to do for the second year.

Kelly Smith added that the plan is to work with the Golden Hills RC&D and the land steward throughout the year to make sure they are on the same track that we think they should be on and not wait until the year report to make sure they are on the right track. She said they will be continually monitoring what they are doing and how they are doing it with good communication back and forth from the beginning so there will be no issues at the year point. She said she will get the report and bring it to the commission.

<i>Motion to approve the agreement carried unanimously.</i>
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<b>AGREEMENT APPROVED</b>
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**RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS REVIEW/RECOMMENDATIONS**

Michael Brandrup, Administrator, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

The Recreation Infrastructure Grant Program (RIG) received state appropriations totaling \$9.0 million over a three-year period from 1998-2000. Each of those state dollars was matched by two dollars in local match. These funds were targeted at the renovation, repair or construction of new vertical infrastructure in city and county parks and recreation facilities.

Due to a very limited number of projects being withdrawn or coming in under budget, there is a total of \$194,287 in the RIG account. A special grant cycle was announced in December, and 41 applications were received by the January 15, 2004 deadline. These 41 projects represented almost \$1.5 million in grant requests to go toward supporting \$18 million dollars worth of recreation construction and renovation projects.

A review and selection committee met on January 21 to review and score the 41 applications and develop a recommendation for Natural Resource Commission approval.

Nine projects are recommended for funding. They are:

1. Cass County Conservation Board---\$25,167 for modern restroom/shower building at Cold Springs Park
2. Breda--\$28,000 for shelter house in Memorial Park
3. Charter Oak--\$21,376 for park shelter house
4. Marshalltown--\$8,000 for renovations and ADA accessibility in Veteran's Memorial Coliseum
5. Clay County Conservation Board--\$21,858.67 for Oneota Cabin restroom addition and refurbishments
6. Woodbury County Conservation Board--\$47,000 for replacement of old restroom with accessible campground comfort station in Little Sioux County Park
7. Casey—Rutt Park improvements, including shower house renovations, picnic tables, new shelter house ceiling, surfacing of RV sites, etc.
8. Union County Conservation Board--\$16,809 for completion of Three Mile Lake Lodge
9. Polk City--\$18,961 for Miller Park improvements, including tennis court renovation and conversion of library building to a multipurpose enclosed shelter. (A grant of \$28,723 was requested. Polk City has indicated a willingness to accept the \$18,961 available after projects 1-8 are funded.

The five members of the review team included representatives from Sherri Proud from the Coralville Parks and Recreation Department, Sally Orgies from the West Des Moines Park and Recreation Department, John Tapken, Director of the Union County Conservation Board, Rick Schneider, Director of the Woodbury County Conservation Board, and Mike Sparks from Iowa Public Management Group.

Mike Brandrup reviewed the nine projects recommended for funding by the review and selection committee.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Sullivan to approve the review and selection committee recommendations for funding the recreation infrastructure grants. Seconded by Commissioner Francisco. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### GRANTS APPROVED

### GENERAL DISCUSSION

Commissioner Francisco thanked Ron Andrews for his presentation in the Lucas County area on bobcats.

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Legislative action on the Infrastructure Bill (\$11 million for REAP, \$2.5 million in Marine Fuel Tax, and \$1 million in lake restoration) was discussed. Concern was expressed with regard to Restore the Outdoor and Destination Park funds. Mr. Brandrup said that the RTO money is used in the state parks systems to do historic restoration, safety infrastructure, the water, sewer systems, etc. He added that staff is working with the legislature trying to restore those funds and encouraged individuals to contact their legislators to let them know of their interest and concern about the bills affecting those areas.

Mr. Brandrup further explained that with regard to Destination Park, staff continues to work with the local groups. He said Indian Hills Community College has made a commitment to step in and take on a proposed wing of the conference center to be built there. In addition, work continues with the federal congressional delegation and the Corps of Engineers where there seems to be support for this program. He said ongoing commitment of state funds is critical. Staff expects to soon send out a prospectus to the private sector to ask for their support and commitment for this ongoing public/private partnership.

Action on boat license increase bill seems to be uncertain at this time.

Staff is working with various groups and holding meetings with regard to revision of the rules and regulations for commercial docks. Mr. Brandrup said discussion regarding dock rules continues. It is hoped to bring recommendations to the commission by their June meeting.

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Commissioner Schneider offered to attend and speak on behalf of the NRC at the Bird Conservation Area Dedication in Cerro Gordo County on Tuesday, April 20.

### NEXT MEETING DATES

The next meeting will be held May 13, 2004 at the Hitchcock Education Center in Pottawattamie County.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion was made by Commissioner Christiansen to adjourn the April 15, 2004 NRC meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Duncan. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.*

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Jeffrey R. Vonk, Director

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Carol Kramer, Chairperson

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Janice Marcantonio, Secretary

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